

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Tibet

Date Group Established (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

07 October 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

15 February 2023 (originally scheduled for 27 October 2022)

Date Annual Return Submitted

08 March 2023

Date of Preceding AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

07 October 2021

Group Meetings and Activities

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

There were three meetings of the CPG during the year 2021/22.

Meeting 1: 7 October 2021

MSP attendees: 2

Non-MSP attendees: 14

Key topics: COP 26, the climate crisis in Tibet, the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, the latest news from inside Tibet

Meeting 2: 27 January 2022

MSP attendees: 3

Non-MSP attendees: 11

Key topics: the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, the Office of Tibet photo exhibition, the latest news from inside Tibet, colonial boarding schools in Tibet (presentation from Lhadon Tethong, Director, Tibet Action Institute)

Meeting 3: 8 June 2022

MSP attendees: 2

Non-MSP attendees: 9

Key topics: campaign updates, the Festival of Politics, a briefing from MM on Robbie Barnett's new report about China's new border location policy for Tibet

The group's key events and activities during the year were as follows:

COP 26 (Sunday 31 October to Friday 12 November 2021)

- CPGT / Office of Tibet meetings, 4 & 7 November
ACH met with Representative Sonam Tsering Frasi and Secretary Tsering Tsomo at the Scottish Parliament Building in Edinburgh on 4 November. RG and MV met with Representative Sonam Tsering Frasi and Secretary Tsering Tsomo at the Green Hub in Glasgow on 7 November.
- Tibet's Climate Crisis: Critical Lessons for Global Climate Policy, 4 November
A panel discussion featuring MM, together with Dr Tobias Bolch, a glaciologist from St Andrew's University, Dr Lobsang Yangtso from the International Tibet Network and Dechen Palmo from the Tibet Policy Institute.
- The Climate Catastrophe the World Ignores, 7 November
A panel discussion featuring TC, together with: Golog Jigme, a Tibetan filmmaker, activist and former political prisoner; Pema Doma, Campaigns Director, Students for a Free Tibet; Cy Wagoner, Creative Resistance Coordinator, NDN Collective. MV had also been scheduled to speak at this event but unfortunately had to withdraw.
- Tibet's Climate Crisis Can No Longer Be Ignored
As COP 26 drew to a close, the CPGT issued a statement with its observations on the conference and recommendations for future climate

policy. This was published on the CPGT website, circulated to press and shared via social media. The briefing paper issued by the Tibetan delegation at COP 26 was appended to the CPGT statement.

Beijing Winter Olympics Campaign

CPGT MSPs and former MSPs were active in campaigning against the Beijing Winter Olympics. This included participating in calls for a diplomatic boycott, which was initiated by the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), issuing statements and asking questions of the Scottish Government. On 7 December we were able to announce that the Scottish Government had confirmed it would not be sending any representatives to the Games. This initially secured decent press coverage before being overshadowed by Westminster's announcement of the same decision. The work of our MSPs was noted and much appreciated by Tibet groups around the world.

Various protest activities took place in January 2022 in the run-up to the Beijing Winter Olympics. CS spoke at a rally in Glasgow, which was jointly organised by Tibet Solidarity (led by EBR) and Scottish Hongkongers. EBR also arranged for political representation at a second rally in Edinburgh - on this occasion the speaker was Maggie Chapman from the Scottish Greens.

Uprising Day (10th March)

The annual event to commemorate Uprising Day is now organised by Tibet Solidarity with support from the CPGT and the local Tibetan community. RG spoke at the initial rally, which took place in front of St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. This was followed by a march through the city, a rally outside the Chinese Consulate and a social gathering at the Himalaya Cafe. CPGT group members participated alongside Tibetans, Hongkongers and Chinese dissidents.

Colonial Boarding Schools

Following the release of Tibet Action Institute's report, the CPGT invited Lhadon Tethong, TAI Director, to give a presentation on the colonial boarding schools in Tibet and the research process behind their report. The presentation was very moving as well as informative and the CPGT resolved to take further action on this issue.

8th World Parliamentarians' Convention on Tibet, 22/23 June

Although no MSPs from the CPGT were able to attend the convention in person, RG recorded a video message expressing the CPGT and Scotland's ongoing support for Tibet.

Festival of Politics, Thursday 11 August

“Information and disinformation: Controlling the narrative as a tactic of war – and peace”

The CPGT successfully applied for a place at the 2022 Festival of Politics and hosted an event on the opening day of the festival. This was chaired by RG and featured Tibetan scholar Dr Tsering Topgyal alongside three other speakers. The event was well attended and followed by a social gathering for CPGT members.

MSP Members of The Group

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Ross Greer, Scottish Green Party
Collette Stevenson, Scottish National Party
Mercedes Villalba, Scottish Labour
Rhoda Grant, Scottish Labour
Alex Cole-Hamilton, Scottish Liberal Democrats

Non-MSP Members of The Group

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

Chris Ballance
Eleanor Byrne Rosengren
Jenni Campbell
Tenzin Choephel*
Roger Eames
Linda Fabiani
Jackie Fordyce
Reka Gawa*
Drukthar Gyal*
Trinley Gyamtso*
Linda Hendry
Mike Lean

	Duncan Lunan Linda Lunan Martin Mills Val Robertson Ron Scrimgeour Victor Spence Alex Staniforth Jill Sudbury Ritchie Walker Mark Watson [*Please redact the Tibetan names if making this list public]
Organisations	Office of Tibet Free Tibet Tibet Watch Scottish Centre for Himalayan Research University of Aberdeen International Tibet Network Tibet Solidarity
<p>Group Office Bearers</p> <p>Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.</p>	
Convener	Ross Greer MSP
Deputy Convener	Collette Stevenson MSP
Secretary	Eleanor Byrne-Rosengren
Treasurer	Roger Eames

Financial Benefits or Other Benefits

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

n/a

Convener Contact Details

Name

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